

AMENDMENTSIn the Specification

1. Please **DELETE** the first paragraph located at Page 16, Lines 2-3, which references and describes Figure 1A.
2. Please **REPLACE** the second paragraph located at Page 16, Lines 5-7, with the following paragraph:

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Figure 1A [1B] provides results from an amino acid analysis of a sample of the poly(glutamic/aspartic acid polypeptide.

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Figure 1A provides results from an amino acid analysis of a sample of the poly(glutamic/aspartic acid polypeptide.

3. Please REPLACE the third paragraph located at Page 16, Lines 9-10, with the following paragraph:

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Figure 1B [1C] shows an NMR spectra of a sample of poly(glutamate/aspartame).

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Figure 1B shows an NMR spectra of a sample of poly(glutamate/aspartame).

4. Please REPLACE the paragraph located at Page 48, Line 4 through Page 49, Line 11, with the following paragraph:

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Solutions of NCAs of β -benzyl-l-aspartate and γ -benzyl-l-glutamate in dioxane/methylene chloride (1:3) were prepared. The ratios (w/w) used between δ -benzyl-l-aspartate and γ -benzyl-l-glutamate were 3:7, 2:8 and 1:9. The polymerization was initiated with triethylamine in methylene chloride (4 ml, 2.5% v/v). The copolymerization reaction was under reflux for 30 min and followed by CO_2 evolution. The reaction was stopped at about 30 mol % conversion. The polymers formed were precipitated by adding ice cold

methanol containing 0.1N HCl (5%) v/v). The products were washed with methanol and dried under reduced pressure, yielded 8gm (for 3:7 batch). The debenzylation was conducted by using HBr according to a known procedure (Idelson, M.; Blout, E.R., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1958, 80, 2387-2393). After HBr treatment, the aqueous solution was dialyzed against distilled water, filtered through Millipore filter and lyophilized. Typical average molecular weight was 26,000-30,000 daltons. [A synthetic scheme is shown in Figure 1A.] A similar technique was used to prepare polymers of glutamic acid and alanine, glutamic acid and asparagine, glutamic acid and glutamine, glutamic acid and glycine, and glutamic acid and one or more amino acids from the group consisting of aspartic acid, alanine, asparagine, glutamine, and glycine.

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5. Please REPLACE the paragraph at Page 49, Line 12 through Page 50, Line 5, with the following paragraph:

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Amino acid analyzer (PE/ ABI 420 A) (Foster City, CA) was used to determine the actual composition ratio of aspartic acid and glutamic acid. Briefly, polypeptide was hydrolyzed with HCl (6N) at 150°C for 75 min. The hydrolyzed products were loaded on PVDF membrane and methanol (30%)

and HCl (0.1N, 0.2 ml) were added to extract the amino acids. Using pre-column derivatization with phenylisothiocyanate, the amino acid concentration was determined. An amino acid analysis of the poly(glutamic acid/aspartic acid) is shown in Figure 1A [1B]. Figure 1B [1C] provides the results of NMR analysis on a sample of the poly(glutamic/aspartic acid) polypeptide.

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